

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1-4. These sheets replace the corresponding original sheets. "Related Art" is added as a legend to each figure.

Attachment: Replacement Drawing Sheet 1 including Figure 1
 Replacement Drawing Sheet 2 including Figure 2
 Replacement Drawing Sheet 3 including Figure 3 and Figure 4

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-5 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 5, which are independent claims, are hereby amended. Amendments to the claims are provided throughout the Specification, specifically at pages 43-61 and Figure 20.

No new matter has been introduced. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. OBJECTIONS

A. Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) filed June 23, 2005 was objected as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(3) for allegedly not including a concise explanation of the relevance.

Applicant respectfully notes the IDS filed June 23, 2005 is in accordance with MPEP requirements. Specifically, MPEP §609.04(a)III, which states, in relevant part:

“Where the information listed is not in the English language, but was cited in a search report or other action by a foreign patent

office in a counterpart foreign application, the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance can be satisfied by submitting an English-language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office. This may be an explanation of which portion of the reference is particularly relevant, to which claims it applies, or merely an 'X', 'Y', or 'A' indication on a search report."

This application is a §371 of PCT/JP03/15437. The references cited in the IDS filed June 23, 2005 were all cited in the International Search Report (ISR) of the PCT application. An English language version of the ISR was provided with the filing of the present application. The ISR provides which portion of the reference is particularly relevant, the claims to which the reference applies and/or the category.

A copy of the ISR filed on June 23, 2005 is provided herewith for convenience. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the references provided in the IDS filed June 23, 2005.

B. Specification

Title of this application was objected to. Applicants submit herewith an amended title.

C. Drawings

Drawings were objected to. Applicants submit herewith amended Figures 1-4.

III. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0012463 to Yamada, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Yamada").

IV. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“wherein the matrix coefficients are determined based on a color reproduction characteristic index and a noise reduction characteristic index.” (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Yamada relates to an image acquisition apparatus and method for performing color correction on a captured image. The apparatus and method detect brightness of each area of the image and set coefficients of a color correcting matrix for performing said color correction in accordance with the detected brightness of each area of the captured image.

Applicants respectfully submit that Yamada fails to teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, nothing teaches or suggests wherein the matrix coefficients are determined based on a color reproduction characteristic index and a noise reduction characteristic index, as recited in claim 1.

Indeed, claim 1 recites determining matrix coefficients based on a color reproduction characteristic index and a noise reduction characteristic index. In contrast, Yamada varies the matrix coefficients according to brightness of an area. Nothing in Yamada teaches or suggests the above-identified features of claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claim 5 is also patentable.

V. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the independent claims, discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Similarly, because Applicants maintain that all claims are allowable for at least the reasons presented hereinabove, in the interests of brevity, this response does not comment on each and every comment made by the Examiner in the Office Action. This should not be taken as acquiescence of the substance of those comments, and Applicants reserve the right to address such comments.

CONCLUSION

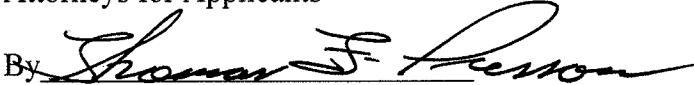
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portion or portions of the reference or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicants

By 
Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
Tel: (212) 588-0800